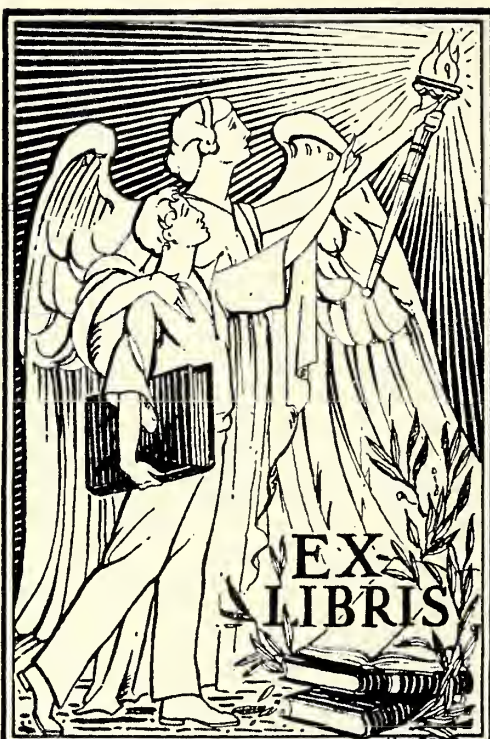


INTREPID REPORTER

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HOUSE FOR THE BLIND**

Theories, (13) Scientific Research and Social Progress, (14) Fundamental Business Principles.

In addition to the  $\Phi$  B K recognition, *Zion's Herald* proposes "a high honor classification for the best answers to these questions:

"What is the difference between a politician and a statesman?

"Are a legislator's duties fulfilled when he simply 'represents' his constituency?

"What does it mean to take 'leadership'?

"Why is it better to think with the mind rather than through the lungs?

"Why does the 'practical man,' when judged by his ultimate achievements, so frequently prove to have been altogether impractical?

"Why should organized 'blocs' be resisted?

"What is 'love of country' and how may it most fittingly be expressed?

"If such a plan was taken seriously and actually put into practise without fear or favor, the general public might be saved no end of embarrassment and much disillusionment regarding democratic processes. The professors and teachers in our colleges and schools are required to meet the most exacting intellectual tests before they are allowed to take their places in the educational world. The same thing is true of candidates for the Christian ministry. Why should not legislators likewise be made to show their qualifications for the high task of lawmaking?"

### INTREPID REPORTER

H. Katherine Smith,  $\Phi$  B K Vassar '27, blind newspaper woman, for nine years on the staff of the *Buffalo Courier-Express*, asked for a tough assignment — and she got what she asked for. The Pan-American peace conference in Buenos Aires next fall her ultimate destination, Miss Smith sailed from New York two weeks ago with instructions to cover South America during the next few months.

But two years' study of Spanish, the experience in talking to strangers that grows out of approximately 1,500 interviews, and



H. Katherine Smith

a kind of indomitableness that "has never turned down an assignment, even an exhibit of rare china," should help her to make the grade as a foreign correspondent.

The universities at Santiago, Chile, Lima, Peru, and Quito, Ecuador, are first on her itinerary. There she hopes to make good friends and gain a working understanding of what is going on in the South American student's mind today. Miss Smith has a hunch — she refuses to draw any hard and fast advance conclusions — that too much is being written about the influence of other countries upon Latin-American peoples and too little about the influence they may exert on other cultures.

"Just as Russia has taught the world how people may be remunerated according to their needs I believe the South American countries have special things they should be teaching other nations — perhaps something about the overcoming of race prejudice, probably a great deal about the art of living," she says.

A person of broad human sympathies, Miss Smith has supplemented her job for the *Courier-Express* by social work and by teaching other blind young people how to read braille.



## OUT WHERE THE TALL CORN GROWS

**H**ATS off to the Midwesterners, and Far-westerners, for an eloquent last word in the Bayta-Beeta controversy (see Spring and Winter numbers). We like the editorial cheering from the sidelines too!

*Ray Mr. O'Neill*

Elgin, Ill.

A brilliant, young Fie Bayta Cap-pa,  
The pride of his learned Yale chapta,  
Spoke mostly in dactylic maytre  
(And prayed, like his sires, to St. Payter.)

He chided a girl from Chicago  
Who openly petted a hog, "Oh,  
Why be domestic, dear Layda?  
Purchase a nice, foreign chaytah."

As for your Midwestern chatta,  
Civilization's waste matta,  
Chuck it for Fie Bayta Cap-pa,  
Elegant, Tay-party patois.

PRAIRIE FLOWER, Oberlin '08A

*Re: Is This the End of the Battle?*

Ottawa Public Schools  
Office of the Superintendent  
Ottawa, Kan.

I don't give a darn how you pronounce Phi Beta Kappa, but. . . We have not reached such a stage of physical and moral decline that we have neither the strength nor the moral courage to hold to the time-honored English pronunciation of English. We still have lungs sufficiently strong to say "wheat" instead of "weat," "white" instead of "wite," and can trill our r's when necessary. We still use dictionaries instead of diction'ries and bury our dead in cemeteries not cemet'ries. Since we are in the Bible Belt, we even contribute funds to send missionaries — not mission'ries to Asia — not Asier — and Africa — not Africker. Only the apostates among us say eyether and nyether, and when we imitate a New Englander we put clothespins on our noses in order to get the proper nasal twang. . . .

G. H. MARSHALL, Kansas '17

San Francisco, Calif.

I have just read THE KEY REPORTER, Vol. I, No. 2, and Mr. E. G. O'Neill's letter has aroused my interest.

Surely you do not sponsor such arrogant provincialism posing as Authority to us "uncivilized persons." Arrogance is so often ignorance, except when bad manners. After all, Webster's Dictionary gives the pronunciation as bē'ta, and the purist sounds the "r" — although not harshly as many people do of course. Thus, "beater" cannot be homophonous with "beeta."

The omission of "r", where it properly belongs, is known as a form of colloquialism (in the speech of Southerners who have long allowed the Negro to dominate their phonetics, so-called Easterners, New Englanders, etc.), or so we "uncivilized persons" have been taught. . . .

RUTH JAMISON, Nebraska '26

St. Louis, Mo.

Far be it from us to enter into the fray as partisans of any school of Phi Beta Kappa phonetics. But we do have a suggestion: Before the controversy brings this historic society to the point of dissolution, why not put the matter up to a half-dozen members whose regular business is settling tough problems? Their names and their chapters are: Charles Evans Hughes, Brown '81; Louis D. Brandeis, Harvard '77; James Clark McReynolds, Vanderbilt '82; Harlan F. Stone, Amherst '94; Owen D. Roberts, Pennsylvania '95, and Benjamin N. Cardozo, Columbia '89.

*The St. Louis Post Dispatch*

Baltimore, Md.

The President, says a Washington dispatch, habitually wears a Phi Beta Kappa key. Those of us who are following the war now being waged over its pronunciation will be interested to know whether he stands with the "Bay-tas" or the "Bee-tas," or whether he regards this as a mere detail that he can leave safely in the hands of his able lieutenant, Postmaster Jim Farley. . . .

*The Baltimore Evening Sun*

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